

A CONSTRUCTION BOARD HAVING A FASTENING MEANS**Technical field**

5 The present invention relates to a construction board having a fastening means designed for mounting the construction board, in particular a gypsum board or a plasterboard, on a construction material, such as a metal or wooden stud.

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Background of the invention

Construction boards are used when building ceilings, walls and floors, the boards being mounted on a metal or wooden stud by means of fastening means. The construction 15 boards may be made of different materials, such as wood, plywood or preferably gypsum. Thus, the most required types of screws are gypsum screws adapted for metal and wooden studs, respectively. This has resulted in production of combination screws having specific threads, which may be 20 used when mounting the board on wood as well as on metal due to the specific threads. The number of screws required for fastening a construction board varies depending on the size of the board, but often 40-50 screws are needed for each board.

25 Different methods exist for mounting the board on the stud with the screws. A usual way is to keep loose screws in a pocket, from which screws one by one are taken out by the installer during the mounting. This method may be hazardous, since the boards are heavy and difficult to 30 handle. Further, when the installer is holding the tool with one hand, i. g. the screwdriver, and takes out the screw from the pocket with the other hand, there is no hand free to hold or support the board. Other problems related to the working environment when using this method are the 35 risk for sticking damages at the moment when screws are

taken out from the pocket, and also the risk of allergy due to the frequent contact between the hand and the screws. The latter is a serious health problem that affects many people leading to necessary wearing of gloves, which makes 5 the work further more difficult. In practice two persons are needed for handling and mounting the gypsum boards when using loose screws. The waste of screws, for example screws left into the pocket or screws falling down on the floor, is also a problem.

10 Another usual method is to utilise a specific tool, into which a strip having screws is inserted. The strip having about 50 screws is then forwardly fed so that one screw at a time is placed in correct position in front of the bit of the screwdriver. This makes it possible to have 15 one hand free to hold or support the board when the other hand handles the screwdriver. However, one problem with screw strips is that the strips form folds, which result in production disturbances. The screw waste may be considerable, since the screw strips often are changed 20 before they are consumed for avoiding a change and thus an interruption in the work, when the worker for the moment is mounting a construction board.

When using another similar method, the screws are placed on a strip rolled up to a roll, which is placed on a 25 device designed for the purpose. This device feeds the screw to a correct position in the same way as described above. However, the problem of these two methods is the difficult handling of the total equipment comprising screwdriver, strip or roll and in some cases the device for 30 the roll. As the screw feeder often is arranged on an extension of the screwdriver, which may have a length of about 0.90 meter, the weight of the roll or strip is obvious. The efficiency of the work is also deteriorated since time is required for the changes of strips or rolls. 35 In addition, the wear of the equipment is large resulting

in frequent reparations and hence production disturbances, which may be a considerable total cost together with costs for transportation, delays and additional work.

In practice one hand is used to handle the screwdriver at the methods described above, i. g. one hand is used to hold the tool and to start or stop it, and the other hand is used to guide the tool for correct positioning of the screw into the construction board. Thus there is no free hand to hold the construction board, and therefore one more person is required to perform the mounting in a safe way.

An alternate method regarding screws on a strip is to apply this method together with a wheel supported device, which among other things functions as a support for the construction board, for example when mounting the board as a ceiling. The screwdriver is then mounted into the wheel-supported device, which may be moved across the floor and adjusted to the actual height of the roof. A mirror is provided in level with the eyes of the worker making it possible for him to see the roof without moving his head as a help to decide where to mount the screw. This method assumes that the floor is free from flexes or cables, waste of building materials, screws, etc., and that the floor is coated or covered in some way. Irregularities in the floor involve a large displacement of the position at the roof. This method is only utilised in small extent at building sites due to its limitations. The disadvantages regarding the waste exist also for all three methods.

Screws, strips or rolls and construction boards must be ordered, transported, unpacked and distributed to various building sites regardless which one of the above mentioned methods being used. Every year about 100 million tons of gypsum boards are mounted world wide requiring a very great number of screws, since at least two screws are needed for each kilo of gypsum. To illustrate the extent of

the work of mounting gypsum boards, it could for example be mentioned that about 40.000 persons in the United States daily are working full time with such mounting.

5 **Summary of the invention**

The object of the present invention is to remedy the drawbacks mentioned above when mounting construction boards with screws, and to provide a construction board having an integrated fastening means for mounting the board on a construction material.

10 A more specific object of the invention is to provide a construction board having an integrated fastening means arranged into the construction board before delivery to the building site for eliminating the handling with loose screws, screw strips or rolls at the mounting.

15 To obtain above mentioned objects the invention provides a construction board having an integrated fastening means for mounting the board on a construction material, such as a metal or wooden stud, comprising a cage arranged into the board and a screw arranged into the cage, which screw is telescopic and which has a dismounted position, or a not extended position, and a mounted position, or an extended position.

20 Other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will appear from the following detailed description and from the attached drawings.

Brief description of the drawings

25 The invention will be described in further detail below with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which

Fig 1 is an enlarged, schematic view of a cross section of a portion of a construction board having a fastening means arranged therein according to the invention, wherein the fastening means comprises a two part

telescopic screw, which is shown in a not extended position;

Fig 2 is a cross section according to Fig 1, but with one part of the telescopic screw screwed into a stud; and

5 Fig 3 is a cross section according to Fig 1, but with the other part of the telescopic screw screwed into the stud.

Detailed description of the invention

10 A portion of a construction board 1 having a fastening means arranged therein is schematically shown in Fig 1. The fastening means comprises a cage 2 and a telescopic screw arranged into the cage 2. The screw comprises an inner part 4 (a first part) and an outer part 15 3 (a second part), and is shown in Fig 1 in a not extended position, wherein the inner part 4 of the screw is mainly located within the outer part 3, which is arranged within the cage 2.

The cage 2 is slightly conical inside and outside, 20 respectively, its diameter being largest at an upper side 1A of the construction board 1 and decreases towards a lower side 1B of the construction board 1. The cage 2, which has a partly or entirely circumferential flange 13, is fixed mounted into the construction board 1 so that the 25 flange 13 lies at the level of and is engaged with the upper side 1A, for example by means of not shown pins or barbs, which are integrated with the flange 13 and thus with the cage 2.

The outer part 3 has external threads 7, and at the 30 top a collar 8 that is arranged mainly at the level of the upper side 1A when the fastening device is in its not extended position. The outer part 3 abuts the inner side of the cage 2 - partly or entirely - for retaining the outer part 3 into the cage 2 by friction. The outer part 3 has a

through passage 5, into which the inner part 4 is arranged and which ends into an opening 6.

The inner part 4 is formed as an ordinary screw having a screw head 10 and a stem 11. The stem is conical 5 and tapers into a tip at the end opposite the head 10. A star shaped recess is provided into the screw head 10, which into the not extended position is arranged mainly at the level of the side 1A and which may be kept into this position by a wax layer 19 or by a similar, easily 10 breakable layer. In an alternate embodiment this layer 19 may be omitted. The stem 11 has external threads 12 having the same pitch as the threads 7 of the outer part 3.

The outer part 3 and the inner part 4 are separable connected to each other by means of the wax layer 19, and 15 the outer part 3 is kept into the cage 2 by friction between the collar 8 and the inner side of the cage 2, which layer 19 prevents the fastening means not to fall apart at handling the construction board 1 provided with the fastening means.

20 Next will follow a description of the performance at mounting a construction board 1 having a fastening means according to the invention. A tool having a screw driver tip 16A is applied into the star shaped recess in the screw head 10 and is brought to rotate, whereby the inner part 4 - during breaking of the sealing 19 between the outer part 25 3 and the inner part 4 - is screwed into a construction material 17, such as a metal or wooden stud, into which the construction board 1 is to be mounted, and the stem 11 is passed through the passage 5 of the outer part 3. When the 30 inner part 4 is almost entirely protruded from the outer part 3 according Fig 2 projections on a part 16B of the tool are brought into engagement with corresponding projections 18 on the upper end of the outer part 3, i. e. in the collar 8, to carry on the outer part 3 in the 35 rotation when screwing the board 1 into the stud 17.

Optionally the carrier members could be of a different type, but they must be designed so that an engagement by shape is provided between the outer part 3 of the screw and the tool 16B. Also the outer part 3 will now be screwed 5 into the construction material 17. When the outer part 3 has been entirely screwed into this material 17, i. g. with its entire length, the collar 8 abuts an edge 15 of the cage 2 and the head 10 of the inner part 4 abuts an edge 14, which defines the opening 6 as shown in Fig 3, where 10 the edge 15 defines the exit hole of the fastening device 1, whereupon the screw motion is finished when both the parts 3, 4 are screwed into the material 17.

The cage 2 can suitably be made of plastic, preferably of a soft quality, or made of metal for allowing 15 displacement of the collar 8 through the cage 2 to the position shown in Fig 3.

The length of the cage 2 is equal to the thickness of the board 1 according to the embodiment illustrated in Fig 1 and 2. However, it should be understood that the cage 2 20 also might be shorter according to an alternate embodiment. The opening 6 of the passage 5 may then for example coincidence or fit into a hole arranged into the construction board 1, so that a through going channel is obtained for the screw when mounting it into the 25 construction material 17.

An alternate embodiment can include a cage 2 with a telescopic screw mounted therein comprising more than two parts.

The construction board 1 having the integrated 30 fastening means according the invention allows the screw to be correctly positioned without using any apparatus for measurements. When using current technology often one or more additional screws are used beside the first one mounted, if there is a risk that the first screw has been

mounted incorrect, resulting in more screws than necessary are used.

A great advantage of the invention is the environmental gain.